

USEPA/OECA/OC
State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) 2000-2001
NESCAUM: Air Compliance and Enforcement Data Quality Improvement Project
Quarter 1, FY2003
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Quarterly Report for EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Grants
NESCAUM Data Project

Reporting Period: Year: FY2003

☒ Oct-Dec (due last working day Jan)

☐ Jan-Mar (due last working day Apr)

☐ Apr-Jun (due last working day Jul)

☐ Jul-Sep (due last working day Oct)

I. Project Information

Agency: NESCAUM

Project Title: Air Compliance & Enforcement Data Quality Improvement Project

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Funds received: \$250,000 on October 12, 2001

EPA Regional Project Officer: Arnold Leriche, EPA Region 1

Report Author: Lisa Rector, NESCAUM

II. Status of Project Milestones

Task 1. Upgrade Universal Interface for Action Linking

<i>Project Milestones</i>	<i>Anticipated Completion Date</i>	<i>Completion Date/status</i>
Develop survey for states and EPA on action linking needs	3/31/02	Completed
Survey states on action linking and develop task list from UI survey	5/15/02	Completed
Hire contractor for UI upgrades	6/30/02	Completed
Draft UI developed	10/31/02	Completed
Draft UI comment period	12/1/02	Underway
Revise upgraded UI	1/15/03	Underway
Test upgraded UI	3/31/03	Underway
Implement use of UI	6/15/03	

Provide training on UI upgrade	6/15/03	
Provide technical support for UI upgrade	12/31/03	
Gather measurement Data for UI upgrade	3/31/04	
Evaluate UI efforts	9/30/04	

Task 2. Develop Quality Assurance Plans

<i>Project Milestones</i>	<i>Anticipated Completion Date</i>	<i>Completion Date/status</i>
Identify QAP pilot states	3/1/02	Completed
Interview states re: data management issues	3/31/02	Completed
Develop generic state QAP	3/31/03	Underway
Develop prototype review system	3/31/03	Underway
Develop QAP protocols with EPA	9/30/02	Underway
Develop and implement state-specific QAPs systems	6/30/03	
Gather measurement data on QAP effort	12/31/03	
Evaluate QAP efforts	7/1/03-8/31/04	

Task 3. Public Access

<i>Project Milestones</i>	<i>Anticipated Completion Date</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
Survey states on CE data issues	5/15/02	Underway
Develop draft access/QC model	6/30/03	
Develop QC data strategies	12/31/03	
	3/31/04	
Develop public information strategies	3/31/04	
Gather public access measurement data	9/1/04	
Evaluate public access efforts	9/1/04	

Task 4. Data Reconciliation

<i>Project Milestones</i>	<i>Anticipated Completion Date</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
Identify state needs for data reconciliation	6/30/02	Completed
Identify relevant data sources	9/30/02	Completed
Develop methods to compare data sources with state and federal data systems	12/31/02	Completed
Develop reports to identify inconsistencies	6/30/03	
Provide updated information for AFS data entry	6/30/03	
Investigate methods to automate cross-reference process	12/31/03	
Evaluate data reconciliation efforts	9/30/04	

III. Status of Project Completion***Universal Interface (UI) Upgrade***

Significant progress has been made in developing an upgraded UI that allows for action linking of HPV elements. The upgrade of the UI has reached the final stages of development. The re-programming of the UI is complete and updates to technical support pieces are underway. Currently, NESCAUM and state staff are reviewing the revised UI user manual. NESCAUM anticipates that it will complete the development portion of the project by late February and will

begin working with states to incorporate the new UI in March.

Quality Assurance Plans (QAP)

Significant progress has been made on the QAP portion of this grant. A draft of the generic QAP has been completed and two states (New Hampshire and Maine) with assistance from NESCAUM are currently using this draft to develop their AFS data QAP. In addition, several pieces designed to support states developing QAPs have been developed and states are also using them to assist in QAP development. Before beginning the QAP development process, NESCAUM required the states to develop goals for the QAP. These goals will be used as measurement criteria during the evaluation portion of this project. In addition, NESCAUM has also requested that states track the resources used to develop the QAP and data issues uncovered during the QAP development process. NESCAUM will use this information as well for evaluation purposes. NESCAUM continues to work with EPA to gather necessary information on EPA data uses and retrievals which provides critical information for the QAPs. NESCAUM hopes to have all necessary information on AFS data structure definitions, data pulls and data uses by the end of the next quarter. NESCAUM anticipates that the portion of this project will remain on schedule and anticipates having a draft-final Generic QAP by the end of the next quarter.

Public Access to Enforcement Data

Given the advent of the ECHO system, NESCAUM along with its project manager is reviewing the goals and outcomes of this portion of the project. To assist in determining how NESCAUM can most effectively increase public access to compliance and enforcement data, NESCAUM is developing a matrix of compliance and enforcement information that is available to the public via the Internet. This information will be reviewed and critiqued by people with expertise in the environmental citizens group. NESCAUM hopes to have this portion of this project re-focused by the end of the next project period.

Data Reconciliation

In the last quarter, NESCAUM completed a review of several private data sources that could be used identify data inconsistencies. After careful review, NESCAUM has chosen to use data provided by Dun and Bradstreet. NESCAUM has begun developing methods to develop compare reports between the data provided by Dun & Bradstreet and state data systems. Connecticut and New York have provided NESCAUM with specific industry SICs to test data compare reports. NESCAUM anticipates using these methods to assist states developing QAPs to QA/QC their facility data.

IV. Results

Attached to this report, NESCAUM has provided copies of the following items:
Draft version of the UI upgrade manual can be accessed at www.dvcllc.com/UIV2.htm

V. Other

None to report at this time.